



B.A.S.E.

JULY, 1987

P.O. Box 33
Bloomington, Il. 61701

VOL: 6 ISSUE 7

Meeting Location: Bloomington Public Library
205 E. Olive St., Bloomington, Il.

Regular Schedule: 2nd Thursday of every month

Next Meeting: JULY 9, 1987, Thursday Time 7-9 p.m.

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B.A.S.E. maintains Public Domain Libraries for members in good standing.

B.A.S.E. does not condone or solicit pirating or any illegal use of non-public domain software or hardware.

All original B.A.S.E. material in this newsletter is in the public domain and user group use as long as club and author are credited. All statements in the newsletter are the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily the opinions of the officers or club.

Commercial advertizing will be accepted with prepaid copy. Rates are \$20.00 full page, \$10.00 half page, \$5.00 quarter page, and business cards \$2.50.

Membership advertizing will be accepted for free.

Newsletter articles must be submitted to the editor by the 25th of the month to be included in the next newsletter. Articles received after the 25th will be held for the following newsletter. Articles must be submitted on a disk using Atariwriter or Atariwriter Plus or First Word. Printed articles will receive a free public domain disk of their choice for contributing to the newsletter. You may receive assistance with preparing your article by calling me at 452-1334 evenings or 827-4909 at work.

This newsletter is created with an ATARI 1040ST, FIRST WORD and printed on a STAR NX-10 printer.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Editor: Richard Raper 452-1334
Refreshments: Susan Benjamin 725-3535
Telecommunication: Marty Erwin 662-1435
Disk of the Month: Brian Green 662-4077
Newsletter Library: Brian Green 662-4077

1987 Meeting Schedule

B.A.S.E. will end its' traditional 1st Thursday meeting in 1987. We will move to the 2nd Thursday of each month with the exception of October. We will meet on the third Thursday in October.

August----13-Thursday
September--10-Thursday
October---15-Thursday***
November--12-Thursday
December--10-Thursday

Presidents Report

by Richard Raper

Well the crisis has been diverted for the rest of 1987. I will be able to continue as President and newsletter editor for the remainder of 1987. This will allow for the normal elections to proceed in the fall for 1988. I appologize for the turmoil created at the last meeting but being on my new job for only one week there was no chance for me to attend our meetings once a month. That has since been corrected.

Have you used your ATARI lately? I haven't due to commuting to Danville for the last month. I do get to use an IBM-AT at work. Now I know why I picked ATARI in the first place. Just to buy software to do spreadsheets and word processing our company will have to spend almost a thousand dollars in addition to over \$5000 for the hardware. I can't wait until I get moved into my house in Danville to set up my ST. Boy those command driven machines are a real bore.

I wish to express special thanks to Susan Benjamin for the refreshments last month and to Brian Green for helping set up the meeting room and hardware prior to the meeting.

See you at the meeting thursday nite. Bring your demo's to the meeting. If we can't get them all in that nite we will schedule you for the following month.

Secretary's Report - June 1987

The Bloomington Public Library has established a new set of rules that is very unfriendly to groups such as ours. They have stated that no club or group can reserve a room more than 6 times in a year, and still prohibit any money transactions even for non-profit groups like B.A.S.E. Plans are wide open as far as other meeting places are concerned.

Members were reminded of the newsletter library checkout. There is a limit of 5 newsletters per month for checkout. They should be returned at the following month's meeting.

A plug was also given for the 8-bit disk of the month. The disk of the month is designed to feature some of the better programs from our public domain library. These disks are in addition to the regular public domain disks.

More bad news for B.A.S.E. came with the announcement that Richard Raper will have to resign as President. He has started work in Danville, IL and cannot make any meetings. Vice-President David Stambaugh will probably have to resign also. His work day has been extended to 12-16 hours per day indefinitely. Therefore, he cannot assume the office of the President. A board meeting was scheduled after the group meeting to come up with options.

R.L. Raper Co. will continue its operations this summer. A decision will be made at the end of the summer whether or not to continue the storefront.

More bad news - the Midwest Atari Expo scheduled for July has been cancelled. Various reasons caused the cancellation: 1) lack of user group support, 2) empty promises by Atari, and 3) additional vendors were needed - even though 20 had committed themselves. Members are reminded to cancel their hotel reservations if they had made them.

The Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Chicago in June was a disappointment. Not many vendors were present due to the COMDEX show overlapping the CES and competing for support.

Several products for both the 8-bits and 16-bits were on display. However, no Mega ST was there. The new 520ST in a 1040ST case was shown. The Atari PCs were there also. The 80-column board for 8-bits made an appearance along with a new double-sided 5 1/4" disk drive. It is supposed to be 3-5 times faster than the 1050 with true double density.

A modem was displayed that works on both the 8-bit and 16-bit computers.

The new XE game machine resembling a 65XE computer was there too. Three cartridges were packaged with the machine which has 64K and is a functional computer.

Members who own modems were reminded that with the thunderstorm activity during this time of the year to disconnect the phone lines from the modems. All hardware should be unplugged from the electrical outlets also to prevent damage to your equipment.

Brian Green gave a demo of the June 8-bit disk of the month. Programs ranged from a music demo to a text adventure to a geography quiz to an arcade-style game.

Nathan Johnson displayed the June 16-bit disk of the month. SNAPSHOT was a utility program that would save anything displayed on the screen. BULLS AND COWS was a Mastermind-type game against the computer. PICSW7 converted Mac and Amiga picture files to the ST format. This program will work on monochrome monitors. NEWTERM was a terminal program for modems. A backgammon game was also on the disk along with STONEAGE. The object of this game is to collect cabbages, and is similar to Boulder Dash.

Greg Bauer gave a demo of the classic Choplifter game where the player pilots a helicopter to rescue hostages. Terrorist tanks, planes, and satellites provided the obstacles to your rescue mission.

Members wanting to give demos at the July meeting should bring their programs to the meeting. Richard will try to be here for the July meeting. He also volunteered to continue with the newsletter if the board is agreeable to this.

July 8-bit Disk Of The Month by Brian Green

July's 8-bit disk of the month features the following programs:

SMOKEY.BAS - A strategy game where you try to break the Bandit's record time from San Francisco to New York. This game was downloaded from PeopleLink.

STATE.BAS - A quick-paced geography quiz. This educational program requires PADDLES!

DEADGAME.BAS - A text adventure where someone is trying to kill you. Can you save yourself before its too late?

DARKHORS.BAS - Since we have an election coming up, why not try your hand at DARKHORSE? This is a menu-driven strategy game where you are the candidate winding your way on the campaign trail.

B.A.S.E. Bits and Pieces by Brian Green

I thought I'd try to pass along bits and pieces of news and information from other newsletters to members. Let me know if you have any ideas for this article, who knows, you may see your name in here or in another group's newsletter.

As I was looking through newsletters, I found my name mentioned from an article published in B.A.S.E. I encourage others to write articles for our newsletter. It is sent to other user groups across the country. If I see someone's name mentioned from B.A.S.E., I'll be sure to mention it in this article.

As Sysop of the Green Acres BBS, I have updated the software to include an option to read the B.A.S.E. newsletter on-line for those users who have modems. Let me know if anyone has any opinions on this.

At the July meeting, the newsletter library will have all 1986 newsletters in the give-away stack. I encourage members to look through these older issues, but to also check out some of the 1987 newsletters. You can find all kinds of information for either the 8-bit or 16-bit computers. It's a gold mine of information awaiting to be discovered.

If anyone has any suggestions for the 8-bit disk of the month programs, please be sure to let me know what kind of programs you'd like to see. I'll do my best to search through our public domain library to find them. If you have any public domain programs you have obtained through the years that you think are pretty good, I'd really appreciate you letting me know about them.

From the Midwest Atari Group Iowa Chapter RUNES May issue (who got this news from Cintari's April ONLINE Magazine), ACTIVISION has filed for bankruptcy protection.

From the April Portland Atari Club newsletter, there are reports of a public domain autoboot program on BBS's for Atari Supra ST hard disk drives. This program supposedly causes the drive to fail, and costs a lot to get it repaired.

WARNING! BBS USERS

Telenet Communications Corporation
PC Pursuit Customer
6/29/87

Dear PC Pursuit Customer:

You may be aware of the FCC's recent proposal to impose switched access charges on Telenet and the other enhanced service providers (ESPs). This letter is being sent to all PC Pursuit users to provide some initial information on the new FCC proposal and to answer questions you may have regarding the proposal and its potential impact on PC Pursuit and other computer-based services.

Switched access charges (also called "carrier access charges") were originally devised by the FCC as the interexchange carriers' means of payment for their use of the local exchange dial network in

originating and terminating long distance traffic. Now the FCC proposes to extend these access charges to enhanced services such as Telenet's PC Pursuit, as well as to any other computer-based service which has interstate traffic, banking/shopping, timesharing, and videotex.

Based on information now available from the FCC, we estimate that access charges would add approximately \$4.50 per hour to ESP costs for dial-in access to a remote host computer, and \$7-9 per hour for a service such as PC Pursuit which uses both dial-in and dial-out access on each call. PC Pursuit customers and other computer users would be particularly affected by these access charges. PC Pursuit's current "Flat-rate/unlimited usage" service would have to be repriced on a per usage basis, incorporating the \$7-9 per hour access charge. It is doubtful that the service could survive at this inflated rate.

Telenet and the other enhanced service providers intend to fight the FCC's proposal. You can assist in our effort by letting the FCC and your Congressional representatives know how access charges will adversely affect your ability to reach information and remote BBS systems affordably. The FCC has asked for this input. Please use this opportunity to add your voice to the debate and stop the proposed increase.

Once the FCC's official Notice of Proposed Rulemaking has been published, we will provide more details on the proposal. This information will include addresses and other information for your letters, and the FCC's schedule for receiving comments on the proposal. In the meantime, please address your questions or comments to FCC-ISSUES on PC Pursuit's Net Exchange BBS. PC Pursuit customers can access the Net Exchange using the following sign-on procedures:

@C PURSUIT, YOURID(CR)
PASSWORD=YOURPASSWORD (CR)

Working together, we defeated a similar proposal which would have applied access charges to PC Pursuit and other enhanced services just three month ago. With the same effort now we can repeat our victory, and protect the important computing resources we enjoy affordably today.